

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application and have been examined. By this amendment, Claims 1-15 and 19 have been canceled. Claim 16 has been amended and Claims 20-26 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 16-18 and 20-26 is respectfully requested, in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Objection to the Specification

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to because of the inclusion of the term "disclosed." The abstract has been amended to delete this term. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Objection to Claims 10 and 11

Claims 10 and 11 have been objected to because of informalities. Claims 10 and 11 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1-15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for including the term "an O-shaped gate" and the term "polymerizing." Claim 1 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1-7 and 10-15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-7 and 10-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,254,617, issued to Inoue et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,219,453, issued to Sakurai et al. Claims 1-7 and 10-15 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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The Rejection of Claims 16-19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,219,453, issued to Sakurai et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claim 16 is an independent claim directed to a composition for the manufacture of paper and includes inorganic mineral powders, polyethylene, and an additive. Claims 17 and 18 depend from Claim 16. Claim 19 has been canceled.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite that the additive is at least one of four specific additives. Support for the amendment can be found at page 6, lines 1-5 and in examples 1-5.

The Sakurai reference describes an organic filler-incorporated ethylene polymer film made of an ethylene polymer composition that includes (a) 35%-90% by weight, based on the weight of the ethylene polymer composition, of an ethylene polymer; (b) 10%-65% by weight, based on the weight of the ethylene polymer composition, of a finely divided inorganic filler particle; (c) 0.1 to 10 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the inorganic filler particle, of a higher fatty acid; (d) 0.5 to 15 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the inorganic filler particle, of a metal salt of a higher fatty acid; and (e) 0.05 to 5 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the inorganic filler particle, of a stabilizer composition. According to Col. 3, line 66, to Col. 4, line 2 of the reference, the use of a higher fatty acid, metal salt of the higher fatty acid, and specified amounts thereof are required for obtaining optimum films having a high degree of toughness.

As an initial matter, we note that the claimed invention does not include either a higher fatty acid or a metal salt of a higher fatty acid as required by the reference. Furthermore, the amount of ethylene polymer required in the composition described in the reference is so high

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(i.e., 35%-90% by weight) that making the film results in the production of toxic gas, which is not environmentally friendly.

More importantly, the cited reference does not describe, teach, or suggest the specified additives now recited in amended Claim 16.

Because the Sakurai reference fails to teach, suggest, provide any motivation to make, or otherwise render obvious the invention as now claimed, the claimed invention is non-obvious and patentable over the cited reference. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims 20-26

Claims 20-26 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification as originally filed.

Claim 20 depends from Claim 16 and recites that the composition is in granule form.

Claims 21-26 relate to an environmentally friendly paper. Independent Claims 21 and 24 relate to papers made from the composition of Claim 16. Claim 21 recites the same percentages for the inorganic mineral powders, polyethylene, and additives, as well as reciting the specific additives recited in Claim 16. Claims 22 and 23 depend from Claim 21 and relate to the sheet layers. Claim 24 recites the same materials; however, Claim 24 recites a specific thickness. Claims 25 and 26 depend from Claim 24 and relate to the sheet layers.

For the reasons set forth above regarding Claim 16, applicant believes that Claims 20-26 are patentable over the cited reference.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and forgoing remarks, applicant believes that Claims 16-18 and 20-26 are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's attorney at 206.695.1755.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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